

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
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R 061310Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1163
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14497

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MBFR, PARM, NATO, GW
SUBJECT: MBFR: "DIE WELT" ARTICLE ON FRG INITIATIVE

REF: BONN 14364 DTG 011811Z SEP 77

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE SEPT. 1 "DIE WELT" ARTICLE ON THE
FRG'S MBFR INITIATIVE HAS THUS FAR AROUSED LITTLE
INTEREST IN BONN. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS,
HOWEVER, EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT THE LEAK COULD
REDUCE THE INITIATIVE'S APPEAL TO THE SOVIETS. END
SUMMARY.

1. THE "DIE WELT" ARTICLE REPORTING SOME DETAILS OF THE
FRG'S MBFR INITIATIVE (REFTEL) HAS AS YET ATTRACTED
ONLY LIMITED PRESS INTEREST. ONE OF THE FEW FOLLOW-
UPS WAS A "GENERAL ANZEIGER" PIECE WHICH LARGELY
REFLECTED THE CONTENTS OF A FOREIGN OFFICE BACKGROUNDER:
(A) THE FRG IS CONSIDERING WAYS TO BRING SOME MOVEMENT
INTO THE MBFR TALKS AND TO THAT END IS IN TOUCH WITH
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THE US; (B) ANY FRG INITIATIVE WILL BE THOROUGHLY DIS-
CUSSED WITHIN NATO BEFORE BEING CONVEYED TO THE SOVIETS;
AND, (C) MBFR IS NOT A SUBJECT OF THE TALKS PRESENTLY
BEING CONDUCTED IN MOSCOW BY ARMS COMMISSIONER RUTH
NOR DOES THE FRG PLAN BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS
ON MBFR.

2. IN THE ONLY NOTABLE POLITICAL REACTION THUS FAR, CDU/CSU FRAKTION DISARMAMENT EXPERT MERTES ANNOUNCED THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD CAREFULLY STUDY THE REPORTED FRG PROPOSAL, WHICH APPEARED TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE PRESENT NATO POSITION.

3. IN A DISCUSSION WITH AN EMBOFF, FONOFF MBFR DIRECTOR RUECKRIEGEL SAID THE LEAK HAD HAPPILY NOT CAUSED ANY WAVES ON THE FRG DOMESTIC SCENE. HOWEVER, HE VOICED CONCERN THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT REACT NEGATIVELY TO PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE INITIATIVE. HE FEARED THE SOVIETS WOULD BECOME DISENCHANTED WITH THE INITIATIVE, WHICH HE THOUGHT HAD REAL PROMISE, IF FURTHER LEAKS OCCURRED. RUECKRIEGEL REGRETTED PARTICULARLY THE PUBLICATION OF THE "OVERHANG" ASPECT OF THE FRG PAPER. RUECKRIEGEL VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD ATTEMPTED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO DISCOVER THE SOURCE OF THE LEAK.
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Message Attributes

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